



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes - May 3, 2010

ABAC Meeting Minutes for the meeting of May 3, 2010 (approved June 7, 2010)

Board members present were Christopher Tonkin, Jack Johnson, Ron Sender, Scott Smith and Stephan Miller. Also present were Mick Beck, Chad Gibson, Doug Greenfield, Michael Zocchi, David Lambina, Phil Goff, Joey Glushko and Steven Quinn.

The meeting was called to order at 7:33.

Review of minutes from previous meetings. We reviewed the minutes from November, February, March and April. November and February were amended with two changes, March with one change and April with numerous changes. All four sets of minutes were approved.

Review of the ABAC Winter Social. Christopher summarized the festivities for those who did not attend. Joey thought we should pay more attention to who is coming to this event. We have people sign in but we have never done anything with that list. The implication was that we should start to do some marketing. Christopher thought that we should start thinking about next year's venue and agenda. We all agreed that some advanced thinking would make scheduling easier.

Report on Park Ave. Bike Lane Marking. On April 26 of this year, the Board of Selectmen endorsed improving Park Ave. with bike lanes. Chad suggested someone knowledgeable should be looking at the current plans for painting the lines. Scott volunteered to follow up with the DPW and review the plans.

Report on April 5 Tri-Community Bike Meeting. Scott noted that the three towns have much the same concerns so it is beneficial to have these meetings. The major topics discussed were bike path plowing, intersections (bikeway intersections and major intersections within the towns) and signage on and around the path. Chad was concerned about the mechanism of deciding what signs are needed. He also suggested we post signs pertaining to safety issues as well as directions to business areas.

Discussion of the upcoming bike path cleanup. The cleanup is scheduled for May 22. This is the same day as the cleanup in Lexington. We discussed publicity and logistics. Volunteers to organize and participate in the cleanup were Chad and Phil in the East, Stephan in the Center and Christopher in the Heights. At this point we deferred discussion of updating the bike path rules and regulations until a later meeting.

Discussion of mounting a bike path outreach day this summer. Chad and Mick were enthusiastic promoters of the idea of a bike path outreach. Christopher thought a good location to set up a table would be near Swan Pl. so that we might point out the newly sanctioned path for negotiating the center on a bicycle. Chad was worried about having enough space in that location and said that he would prefer a spot near Spy Pond. Mick would also prefer a spot near the pond. We decided that June 12 is our preferred date with June 19 at the rain date.

Update on Arlington Center bikeway crossing safety and law enforcement. Scott presented us with a copy of the new safety brochure which outlines the currently preferred way to cross the Center on a bicycle and gives tips on general bicycle safety. Stephan expressed some trepidation about the safety of bicyclists using the new recommendation. He thought that that stretch of Mass. Ave. is difficult to negotiate when there is a lot of traffic. Whereupon Scott told us that he agrees and that the planning office is applying for a grant to do some engineering on improving the safety of the center crossing.

League of American Bicyclists Bike Friendly Community designation. Jack summarized what this designation means. Phil summarized the various levels of certification and thought that a bronze or silver designation would be appropriate. Jack also told us that the LAB is eager to bestow the designation on a town in Massachusetts as there are currently no Bicycle Friendly Communities in the state. Jack told us that a great deal of data collection is necessary to complete the application. He thinks that the application could be the basis of a town bicycle plan. Many of us would have to help Jack with this application.

We speculated about who in town should submit the application. Phil felt that getting the designation would facilitate our other applications for bicycle related grants. We decided we would like to try for the January deadline. Phil thought we should give the July deadline a shot. This means that we would need the Selectmen's approval by the end of May.

*We voted to proceed with getting the Selectmen's endorsement for this project. The motion was passed unanimously. Volunteers to work on this project were Stephan, Stephen, Doug, Mick, Ron and Christopher. Phil and Jack will head the task group.

Minuteman Bike-Friendly Business Practices Tri-Community Award. Mick proposed that this award should be given in each of the three Minuteman Bikeway communities. His plan would have businesses submit applications for this award. Mick feels that this would get the local businesses to start thinking about bicycling issues. Jack was not so keen on the tri-community idea but he thought that we should do an award in Arlington. He also suggested that we should also encourage businesses to apply for LAB designation as a Bike Friendly Business.

Christopher asked about small businesses and the need to tailor the process to include them. Joey thought the town and/or townspeople should be able to nominate businesses for the award.

Discussion of the updating of the ABAC bylaws. Ron told us about the progress he has made collating our work on updating the bylaws. He showed us the current draft together with his questions and comments. We reviewed the questions and discussed the definition of our mission and whether we should allow a non resident member. Ron will incorporate our changes and we will review the results at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm

*Denotes a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller